

Name: _____

Period: _____

The Roman Empire

Directions: Label the following places using a book or the Internet.

Italy

Rome

Sicily

Germany/Romania

Africa

Spain

Britain

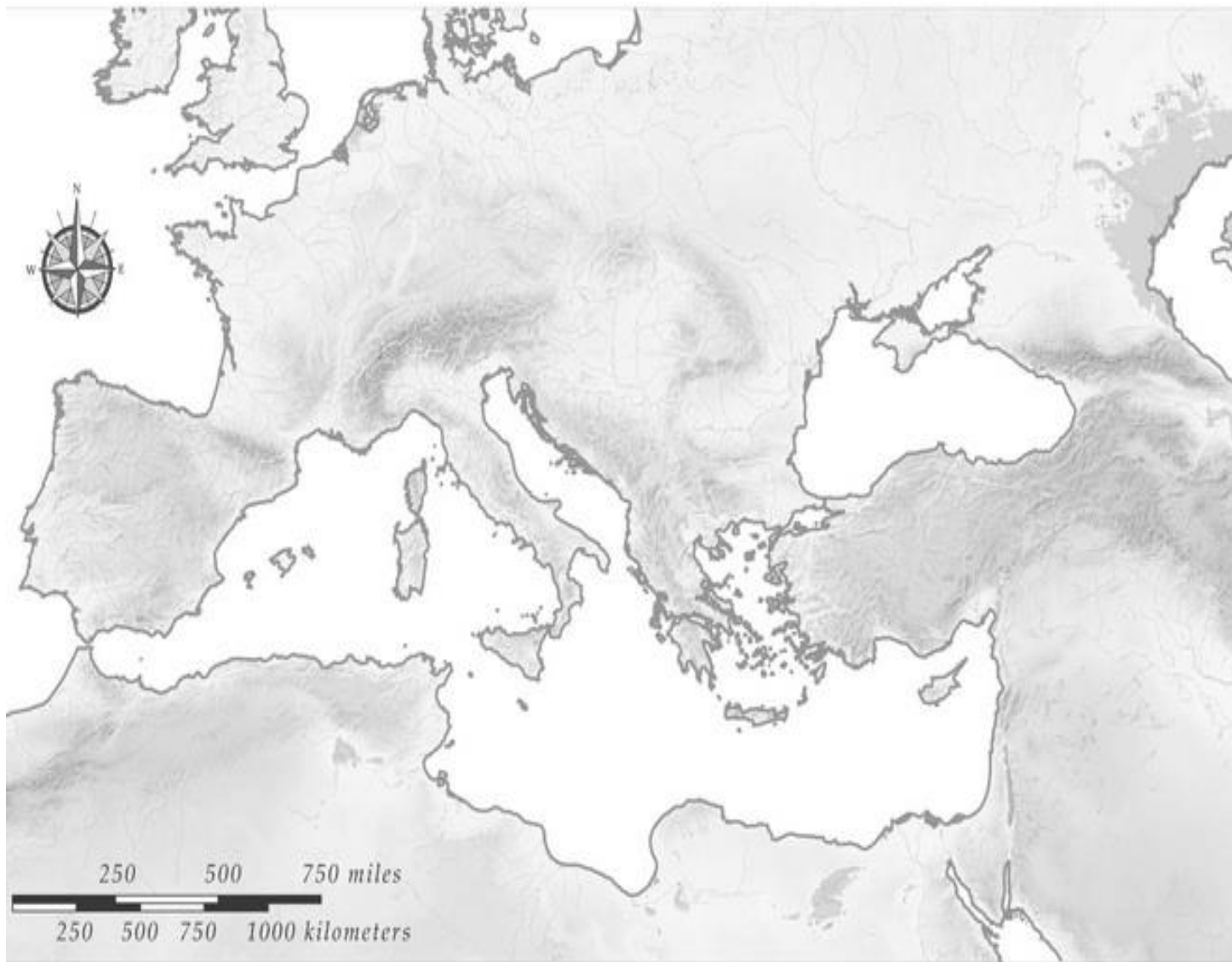
Mediterranean Sea

Egypt

Gaul (France)

Asia Minor

Middle East



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Early Rome: A Blend of Cultures

Italy is a peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea to the west of Greece. Greece and Rome share similar climates of warm, dry summers and mild winters. Unlike Greece, Italy does not have very good mineral resources or harbors. Italy, however, is less mountainous than Greece, is easier to travel through, and has much fertile land. It is no surprise that Rome was founded as an agricultural society while Greece had to rely on trade and the seas to survive.



The Italian **Peninsula** is more closely linked to the rest of Europe than Greece is. While a mountain range known as the Alps to the north is a natural barrier, many tribes crossed into Italy or sailed and established colonies on its shores (including the Greeks!). The early Romans developed a strong military to defend against raids and a navy to defend ships using the Mediterranean for travel.

It is believed that, after Rome was founded by Romulus, the Romans began to expand and conquer neighboring tribes called the Latins and Etruscans. While Greeks sought to spread their own culture, early Romans were very adaptable and borrowed ideas from everyone they met. They learned metalworking and architecture (especially using arches) from the Etruscans, learned how to grow grapes and olives from the Greek colonies, borrowed the alphabet and language from the Latins, and even developed a religion based on Latin and Greek **deities**.



Rome gradually expanded but was still controlled by Etruscan kings. Romans wanting their own identity and unhappy with paying tribute to a harsh ruler overthrew the Etruscan king in 509 BCE and founded a new government called a **republic**. They swore to never again be ruled by a king and instead let the people elect leaders to lead and serve the best interests of Rome. This was the beginning of what is known as the Roman Republic.

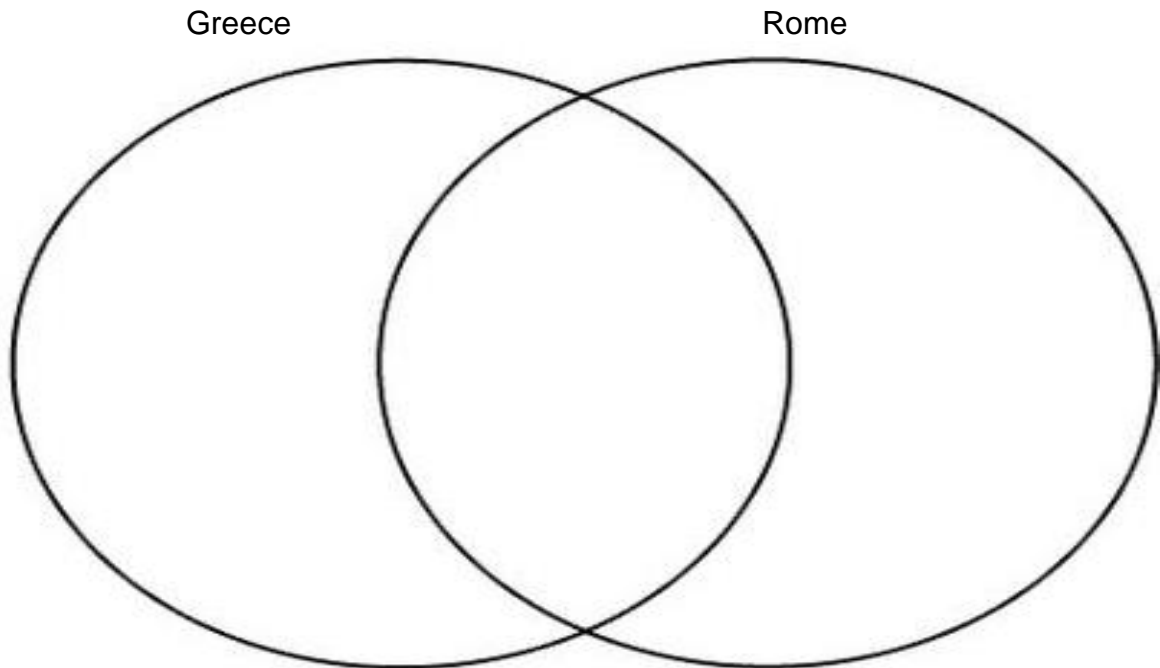
Dictionary

Peninsula (*noun*): a body of land jutting into and nearly surrounded by water.

Deities (*noun*): gods/goddesses

Republic (*noun*): a form of government in which power is held by citizens who vote on their leaders

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - Ⓐ The Greeks and Romans have the same history.
 - Ⓑ The Romans developed their identity by learning from those around them.
 - Ⓒ Italy is a nicer place to live than Greece.
 - Ⓓ Romans learned to overthrow their kings.
2. Why did Romans develop a military/navy?
 - Ⓐ To conquer the Greeks
 - Ⓑ To teach young men the skills they need to survive
 - Ⓒ To lead pilgrims to the Holy Lands east of Greece
 - Ⓓ To defend their country and ships against raiding tribes in Italy
3. Complete the Venn Diagram below with at least 2 facts in each space based on your prior knowledge and the passage:



4. It is believed that _____ founded the city of Rome in 753 BC.
5. In the beginning, Rome was ruled by kings. After the Romans overthrew the last king, their government was called a _____.